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Desmodium Illinoense, Gray.
Cratægus mollis (Torr. & Gray) Scheele.
Osmorrhiza Claytoni, (Michx.) B. S. P.
Convolvulus arvensis, L.
Seymeria macrophylla, Nutt.
Anychia Canadensis (L.) B. S. P.
Asprella Hystrix (L.) Willd.

DOANE COLLEGE, CRETE, January 2, 1892.

The Validity of the Oldest Specific Name.

The method adopted by Mr. Sudworth (see Vol. xviii. 289) appears to result from a logical application of the law of priority, and will probably in time find acceptance among botanists, as it is already doing among zoologists. If the identical name for both genus and species is to be avoided, it is the genus that must go—and yet I presume nobody will propose to abolish *Nasturtium*, *Ustilago*, *Opuntia*, etc., for this reason ! Some years ago I brought this question forward in a short article dealing with nomenclature (*Science Gossip*, 1888, p. 276), and since then have noted down cases of the kind when I have come across them. The following are additional to those given by Mr. Sudworth :

Present Name.	Linnean Name.	Correct Name by Priority.
Nasturtium officinale, R. Br.	*Sisymbrium nasturtium.*	*Nasturtium nasturtium* (L.).
Guazuma tomentosa, H.B.K.	*Theobroma guazuma.*	*Guazuma guazuma* (L.).
Pimenta officinalis, Lindl.	*Myrtus pimenta.*	*Pimenta pimenta* (L.).
Cinnamomum Zeylanicum, Breyn.	*Laurus cinnamomum.*	*Cinnamomum cinnamomum* (L.).
Persea gratissima, G.	*Laurus persea.*	*Persea persea* (L.).
Lagenaria vulgaris, Sw.	*Cucurbita lagenaria.*	*Lagenaria lagenaria* (L.).
Manihot utilitissima, Pohl.	*Jatropha manihot.*	*Manihot Manihot* (L.).
Ustilago segetum (Bull.).	*Chaos ustilago.*	*Ustilago ustilago* (L.).

Probably many other cases might be found if a diligent search were made.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica, W. I., Nov. 17th, 1891.

Botanical Notes.

A Singular Rudbeckia hirta. Prof. Halsted's note in the October BULLETIN, entitled "A Double-Headed *Rudbeckia*," called my attention to a specimen I collected in a meadow on the Gap Hills, Lancaster Co., Pa., June 14, 1889. On examination, I find the plant to be a very curious freak. It consists of two stems ascending from a short cylindrical root-stalk. From the place where the two stems leave the root-stalk they are flattened in the ratio of about 1:2. In some places the stems are grooved, plainly showing the double stem, while in other places there is nothing to show the fact except the flat stem. One stem is terminated by two heads crowded apart at an angle; the number of rays in this double head is twenty-eight. The other stem is terminated by a group of three heads, two barely separated and the third separated at a slight angle; the number of rays in this group is forty. The arrangement of the leaves is affected much by the abortion—some are alternate, as they should be; others are opposite, and many are irregular. In the case of the irregular leaves, some spring from the stem almost opposite, some beside each other, and still others at various angles to each other, according as the buds were situated on the joined stems. In one instance two buds seem to have sprung from the same spot, and the leaves continue as one for a short distance, and then separate into two. JOHN K. SMALL.

Phlox maculata, L., *in Waterford, Conn.* About four miles from New London, in a meadow beside Jordan Brook, is a small but flourishing station of the above-mentioned plant. So far as observed, it is confined to two patches, the larger of which comprises an area of thirty or thirty-five square yards, the smaller less than half as large, lying thirty or forty rods farther down the brook. The plant grows very thickly in both these patches, and when in bloom fairly illumines the meadow. The interest in this station lies in the question whether the plant is or is not indigenous here. Only a little way from the meadow is a farm-house which has been occupied by the same family for several generations. There is no tradition in this family as to its ever having been introduced, and no one now living remembers a time when it did not grow in its present position. Furthermore, it is not found in any garden in the neighborhood, and, in fact, I have never seen it in cultivation in this vicinity. All these facts point to its being a native. On the other hand must be mentioned its very limited distribution, its occurrence so far north and east of its recorded range, and its nearness to human habitations. If introduced it must have been at some remote time in the past. At any rate it has maintained itself for many years, is still flourishing, and must be looked upon as thoroughly established.

CHARLES B. GRAVES, M.D.

Note on the Genus Henrya. I find that American botanists (Asa Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. xxi. 406; J. Donnell Smith, Bot. Gaz. xvi. 198, and J. N. Rose in litt.), are all in favor of restoring *Henrya,* Nees (*Acanthaceæ*) and they ought to know best; therefore my *Henrya angustissima,* in Journ. Linn. Soc. xxvi. 111, and Hooker's *Icones,* t. 1971, must have a new name. I propose calling it *Neohenrya angustissima.*

W. BOTTING HEMSLEY.

KEW, Jan. 16, 1892.

Index to Recent Literature Relating to American Botany.

Acalypha Virginica. A Goiran. (Bull. Soc. Bot. Ital. i. 52, 1892). Reported as introduced along the Adige in northern Italy.

Additional Evidence on the Communicability of Peach Yellows aud Peach Rosette. E. F. Smith. (U. S. Depart. Agric., Div. of Veg. Path. Bull. I., profusely illustrated).

Brasilianische Nutzpflantzen. Theo. Peckolt. (Pharm. Rundsch. ix. 219-222, x. 34).

Canadian Hepaticæ, named by W. H. Pearson, of Manchester, collected and distributed by John Macoun, 1891.

This distribution completes the Bryophyta and includes 116 specimens, accompanied by a printed list containing descriptions of two new species, with illustrations. It has been a great deal of work to get out these valuable sets of mosses and hepatics, and much credit is due for its accomplishment in so short a time. We are informed that a few remaining sets of the mosses will be sold at six dollars a hundred. E. G. B.

Carnation Rust—The. (Gard. & For. v. 18).

Note and illustrations of *Uromyces caryophyllinus.*

Copernicia cerifera. Thomas Morong. (Bull. Pharm. Jan. 1892, reprint).

An interesting account of the Paraguayan Palma negra and the many uses it is put to by the natives, its great hardness and